

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 029776
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05
L-03 H-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /048 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RCASTRODALE:SM X23040
APPROVED BY AF/E:RSPOST
AF/P: GGAY

-----100027Z 117185 /61

O R 092313Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, TZ, KE, US

SUBJECT: UPI STORY ON STRANDED AMERICAN IN TANZANIA

1. FOLLOWING STORY BY RAYMOND WILKINSON APPEARED UPI
FEBRUARY 9 DATED NAIROBI: QUOTE

A GROUP OF AMERICANS TRAVELING IN TANZANIA SAY THEY WERE
PUT UNDER HOUSE ARREST FOR TWO DAYS BY ARMED POLICEMEN
AND LATER HUSTLED ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN A CONVOY THAT RAN
OUT OF FOOD AND WATER.

"IT WAS A REALLY DREADFUL EXPERIENCE AND I KISSED THE
GROUND WHEN I REACHED KENYA," SAID ARTHUR BLOCK OF
SEAFORD, N.Y., ONE OF THE ABOUT 15 AMERICANS WHO ARRIVED
IN NAIROBI TUESDAY ABOARD A SPECIAL FLIGHT.

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I'M GOING TO COMPLAIN TO EVERY CONGRESSMAN AND SENATOR I
CAN FIND," SAID MRS JAMES BLACK OF SAG HARBOUR, N.Y., WHO
SAID U.S. CONSULAR OFFICIALS IN TANZANIA DID NOT EVEN KNOW
OF THE GROUP'S PLIGHT.

THE AMERICANS' ORDEAL BEGAN THURSDAY WHEN TANZANIA
SUDDENLY CLOSED ITS BORDER WITH KENYA -- STRANDING ABOUT

1,000 TOURISTS -- BECAUSE OF A DISPUTE OVER THE COLLAPSE OF A JOINTLY OWNED AIRLINE. BY TUESDAY MOST OF THE STRANDED TOURISTS HAD BEEN FLOWN OUT TANZANIA ABOARD SPECIALLY CHARTERED AIRPLANES, AND MANY SAID ON ARRIVAL AT NAIROBI THAT THEY WERE TREATED REASONABLY WELL BY THE TANZANIANS.

BUT MRS. BLACK SAID SHE WAS AWAKENED AT MIDNIGHT THURSDAY AT HER HOTEL ROOM IN LOBO, NEAR THE(OMITTED)IN NORTHERN TANZANIA, AND "THE FIRST THING I SAW WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR WAS HEAVILY ARMED POLICE WITH RIFLES.

"FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS WE JUST STAYED THERE. WE COULDN'T MOVE. WE COULDN'T COMMUNICATE WITH ANYONE. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING. THE POLICE JUST STAYED AND WATCHED US WITH THEIR RIFLES. THEY DIDN'T SPEAK."

THE AMERICANS WERE THEN BUNDLED INTO VEHICLES FOR A TWO-DAY RIDE ACROSS NORTHERN TANZANIA TOWARD THE KENYA BORDER, BUT ON ITS LAST DAY THE CONVOY RAN OUT OF FOOD AND WATER, SHE SAID.

"IT WAS LIKE A PRISON CONVOY," MRS. BLACK SAID. "THERE WAS A POLICE CAR IN FRONT, A POLICE CAR IN THE REAR AND POLICEMEN SITTING IN MOST CARS. EVERY SO OFTEN THEY WOULD STOP AND COUNT VEHICLES AND PEOPLE."

"IT WAS COMPLETELY STUPID AND ILLOGICAL WHAT THEY (THE TANZANIANS) DID," MRS. BLACK SAID. END QUOTE.
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2. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS EMBASSY MAY HAVE ON ABOVE.

3. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HARASSMENT, ALLEGATIONS, HOUSE ARREST, TOURISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE029776
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RCASTRODALE:SM X23040
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-0038
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770256/aaaabycc.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29c418c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3360383
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPI STORY ON STRANDED AMERICAN IN TANZANIA
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, TZ, KE, US, (BLOCK, ARTHUR), (BLACK, JAMES)
To: DAR ES SALAAM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29c418c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009